

BRENTWOOD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF 4/15/08

Convened: 6:30 p.m.

Present: David Menter  
Kevin Johnston  
Jeffrey Bryan  
Andrew Artimovich  
George Waldron

The Board met and reviewed payroll, accounts payable, and signed the register. The Board reviewed and signed the recreation register.

Jonathan Ellis was in to present the weekly Treasurer's report.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 8, 2008 meeting. Johnston made a motion, seconded by Artimovich, to approve the minutes as written. All voted in favor.

The Selectmen reviewed the notes:

- The Board agreed to give Norm Garside permission to hay the Town owned parcel on Middle Road which used to belong to George Beyea.
- Our new custodian/maintenance worker is starting on 4/16/08.
- Bid requests for the Grange roof are due 4/28.

Gil Tuck, Building Inspector, was in with the following building permits which were signed:

- Bob Kerr of 138 Pickpocket for an addition to the breezeway and a 2 car garage.
- Paul & Sharon Gibson of 13 Robinson Street to remodel the kitchen, finish the basement, install a pool, and put up a shed.
- 157 Portsmouth Ave Residential Dvpt to construct a new house at 26 Idyllwood Farms.

The Board signed the following documents:

- Land Use Change Tax penalties for 2 condo sites at the Mill Pond Crossing Development.
- A letter informing Painters & Allied Trades District Council that their educational exemption for the 2008 property tax year has been approved.
- A Special Permit to Construct a Sewage Disposal System at 333 South Road.
- A letter to Mr. Boyd regarding the construction vehicles at his Lake Road property.
- A letter to Mr. Currie of South Road regarding the roll off containers being stored on his property.
- Tax Collector's Warrant for excavation tax and related excavation tax assessment calculations.
- A letter to the Brentwood Fireman's Association regarding the continued noncompliance at the Musso property.

- Approval of an abatement request, as recommended by Jim Michaud, for Gregory & Julie Thom of Flanders Drive.

At 7:00 p.m. Menter welcomed the department heads and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Kathy St. Hilaire started the departmental discussions by reviewing the items that the Planning Board is currently working on. They have been working on a couple chapters of the master plan, the Housing Chapter and the Community Profile chapter. The Housing chapter will “make recommendations to further Brentwood’s efforts to provide needed housing, promote community goals”, etc. The Community Profile chapter will provide a statistical review of the town, population, education, income, etc. The Planning Board will be holding a public hearing in May for the adoption of both chapters. The Planning Board will be contracting with the Rockingham Planning Commission for a build-out analysis of the town which will be completed by the end of the year. Lastly, a representative of the RPC will attend the 6/5 Planning Board meeting to discuss their work on “Green Building Ordinances” and a model ordinance for Small Wind Energy Systems.

Kathy then discussed the Recreation Department. She began by introducing Jessica Pimental, our new Recreation Director. Kathy then continued by explaining that Skaff Cryogenics is donating a cistern for the irrigation system but we will need a way to get it to the site once it is done. She reminded the Highway Dept that the sides of the basketball court pavement need to be stabilized. Hillside Landscaping has installed a new water tank and MacDonald Well has chlorinated the water in an attempt to take care of the odor problem. The Playground Committee has purchased the playground equipment and Creative Storage is currently storing it all free of charge. The Playground Committee recently raised \$1,800 from a yard sale held at the BCC.

Phyllis Thompson of the Town Clerk & Tax Collector’s office has received the new tax bills which will be run on her new printer. Their office will be getting a new Accounts Receivable program installed on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Revenues appear to be up over last year with lots of new automobiles being purchased.

Wayne Robinson, Police Chief, explained that they are trying to keep overtime down. Vehicle maintenance and gas line items are up. Hopefully once the new cruiser is in the need for maintenance will diminish.

Wayne Robinson, Road Agent, said the highway shed is ½ full of salt and he can not reorder as Morton Salt is out. He is working on getting sand and wondering if he should put it out to bid. The backhoe is out of service as a piston let go and will be an expensive fix. They will be starting on road work beginning with the cutting of brush along South Road. They will also work on finishing the shoulders on Deer Hill & Scrabble Roads. The seasonal help will hopefully start working next week. Robinson has talked with Public Service about the pole at the end of Pickpocket which needs to be moved and they will put it on their list.

Fire Chief Kevin Lemoine said their first quarter has not been good concerning expenses. E3 ended up needing a new exhaust and wiring, there were \$1,200 - \$1,300 of '07 expenses that did not get paid until '08, and diesel and oil expenses may go over budget. Bryan recommends that all departments pool together their oil/propane needs and then prebuy for next season.

Al Belanger reported on the cemeteries. They are very happy with the highway department's upkeep of the mowing and roads at the cemeteries. This year they will need to grade the existing driveways and fill in some depressions between the graves. A big limb fell in the Veazey Cemetery and hit the chain link fence. The Highway Dept has cleaned up the limb and will try to repair the fence.

Bob Gilbert spoke on behalf of the library trustees. Their financial situation looks dire so far this year. The oil expense is above what they had budgeted and someone hacked into their computer which was expensive to fix. The building and grounds, however, are in good shape.

Wayne St. Hilaire has been in touch with Charlie Moreno regarding the timber cutting they hope to have take place behind the school during the summer recess. The BRC property purchased from the Demeritt's is also in need.

Bob Gilbert spoke as the representative of a few departments regarding concerns about the employee handbook. They are as follows:

- Considering employees will be losing their 7 sick days and floating holiday but gaining a minimum of 3 days, the net is that they lose 40 hours. This they consider to be a substantial loss of benefits. While they think earned time is a good program, it needs to be tweaked.
- The change to a 32 hour minimum in order to receive benefits removes an incentive that they were able to offer. No medical would be OK but prorate the rest. This can be used as a management tool and reward system.
- They recommend increasing the carry-over amount to 80 hours from 40 as this provides incentive, recognizes commitment, and instills a long term partnership.
- We shouldn't take away the 1 ½ x for holiday pay. This involves very few people who have to work on difficult days and costs the Town very little.
- Change to longer time of service to move up to next accrual rate.
- Concerning military leave, the loss of the difference in pay for 10 days.
- Can't take away what we've already got.

Doug Finan inquired if there has been a \$ figure associated with the changes.

Kevin Lemoine asked what the purpose was of changing the employee handbook. Wayne St. Hilaire explained that it was a request that was made at Town Meeting 2-3 years ago. He continued that 15-20 years ago when there were only 2-3 benefited employees, the benefits package was used to compensate for low pay; but now that we pay competitive salaries, that is no longer necessary. Compared to other towns, our benefits package was above others.

The Board said they will take their concerns under advisement and discuss them at one of their regular meetings.

At 7:45 p.m., the department head meeting terminated.

The Board reviewed a draft for Request for Proposals for the work on the Crawley Falls Bridge. Waldron made a motion to approve the draft. Motion was seconded by Artimovich; all in favor.

Carole Belliveau, Director of Emergency Management, came in with an Assessment Worksheet for Menter to sign.

At 8:00 p.m. Artimovich made a motion, seconded by Waldron, to adjourn. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stevens